

Haven Happenings

Haven Happenings, Issue #23

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ingridshaven.net.au

Welcome to the latest issue of *Haven Happenings*, the quarterly newsletter from Ingrid's Haven cat sanctuary.



My shed has been full of kittens, their mothers and lots and lots of orphans lately. The mama cats are doing their best helping me to feed them all but not even they are enough so we compromise. I supplement the feeding with a bottle during the day and evenings and the mothers look after the babies at night. It is also so very important that the tiny ones have proper mamas on four legs from which the kits can learn how to become well-adjusted cats.

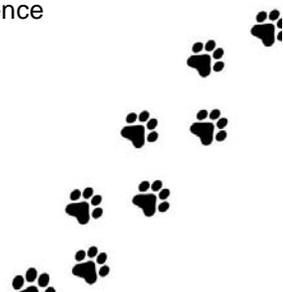
Unfortunately a high number of senior cats have been surrendered to the shelter lately. These cats always find it very difficult to find a home but I am not writing them off by any means – there are still people out there who want to give, who want to make sure an older cat has somewhere to rest its head for a few years. I myself would never adopt a kitten – I love the seniors – and at my age to adopt a young cat would be plain ridiculous as that cat would without fail outlive me and then what? These are the cats that I see coming in now and it is heart breaking to see them struggling to adjust. Very often I have to handfeed them as they go off their food once they realise they are abandoned, and they develop hyper-thyroid

problems, diabetes and a range of other issues. I wonder if people would be so keen to get rid of a family member if they saw what I see. We do think animals are devoid of feelings but nothing could be farther from the truth. They grieve and they feel pain, but the really good thing is they can trust and love humans again despite having been treated like garbage. We have a lot to learn from our fellow animals.

Winter is here, after the warmer months brought much sunshine. It was so nice having the washing billowing in the wind and drying in no time. The cats took the opportunity to stretch out and soak up the rays, the roses were blooming and I didn't need to have the electric blankets turned on for days. Mice were said to be aplenty over summer – the few that I saw have been dead meaning Monty – the shed cat – is doing his job. Judging from his plump body he is eating well and probably more than I feed him. Monty is very often accused of being a pregnant female by visitors but I can assure everyone he is only keeping his body strength up as he is also the Haven's blood donor when needed – something he takes very seriously.

I would like to thank all my followers, sponsors, vollies and supporters in all ways because without you this place could never operate on the scale it does. You are all 'havenites' – we are all making sure all these cats coming through the doors are safe, well cared for and then finally a home can be found. Many long stayers have been lucky recently in finding that special person – and by long stayers I mean that the cats have been here for years but they have been shy and have not been selling themselves. A couple of weeks under the bed and they are absolutely blooming in their new homes. A shy cat becomes very devoted to its owner once the confidence has been built up. Something to consider perhaps at the next adoption.

Ingrid & the Cats



Feeding multiple cats with different dietary needs



Multi-pet households are a challenge for those families who have cats who have specific dietary requirements such as being overweight, fussy eaters or those with prescription diets.

Unfortunately for your cats, the times of unrestricted grazing throughout the day are over!

Firstly measure the full daily amount of food required for each cat into their own specific containers.

Check with your vet on the exact amount you should be feeding if you aren't sure.

When it is time to feed, it is a good idea to separate your cats into different rooms. This way you can give each cat a portion of their daily food allowance and ensure they do not swap food bowls. Leave your cats to dine for approximately 30 minutes (some fussy eaters may require longer). Once both cats have had adequate time to dine, store their food bowls and containers until the next feeding time. You can continue to feed your cats multiple times throughout the day according to their own preferences.

If your cats will not eat alone, then fully supervised feeding times will be required.

It's also a good idea to keep overweight cats active. Look for toys your cat can chase such as the light from a laser pen, a teaser toy, or the end of a piece of string. Look also for things they can bat such as soft balls and also for things they can explore such as cardboard boxes and cat tunnels. If your furry friend doesn't already have one, a scratching post is a wonderful piece of equipment to keep your cat amused.

Quote of the Day

"If man could be crossed with the cat it would improve man, but deteriorate the cat."

Mark Twain



Kitten items desperately needed

Ingrid's Haven is in urgent need of the following brands of wet kitten food:

- Royal Canin
- Hills
- Fancy Feast

We would also very much appreciate other items for kittens including toys, tunnels and climbing towers.

Please call Ingrid on 0417 360 700 or email ingridarving@hotmail.com to arrange the drop-off of items.

Thank you for your generous support.



Happy tails



Hi Ingrid

Just a quick update on Arvid!

He was a bit shell-shocked for the first day or two, hiding under the couch and bed.

With lots of gentle love and encouragement he has realised this is his forever family and has quickly become quite the smoocher again (as you can see by the photo)!

He has already enriched our lives so much, thank you for keeping him safe all those years so he was able to join our little family :-)

I will continue to keep you updated,

Taneka x



More happy tails!



Hi Ingrid

We just wanted to drop you an email to tell you how Gingy (Garfield) is settling in. He has settled in really well! He sleeps on our bed and pretty much has the run of the place! You were so right when you said he had some "cat-a-tude"!

He lets you know when things are not going his way with a bit of a nip but really it is never hard - just enough to

get his message across. Whenever we open plastic packaging he appears from nowhere thinking he's getting a treat!

I'm not sure if we mentioned it to you but we operate a B&B during the summer months so one of the things that we wanted to see was how he reacted to guests. He loves the attention and seems to really enjoy meeting new folk, which is great from our perspective.

He has decided that he likes playing billiards as we have a full size billiard table and we found him chasing the cue ball around the table until it went into the hole - super cute but we now put the cover on the table when not in use!

Gingy really has brightened our lives with his presence and we are pretty sure he is enjoying it too!

Thank you so much, Ingrid!

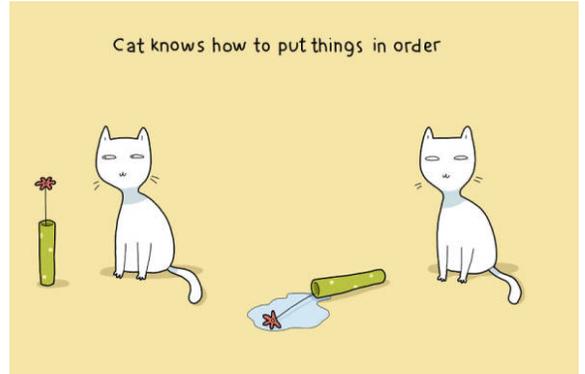
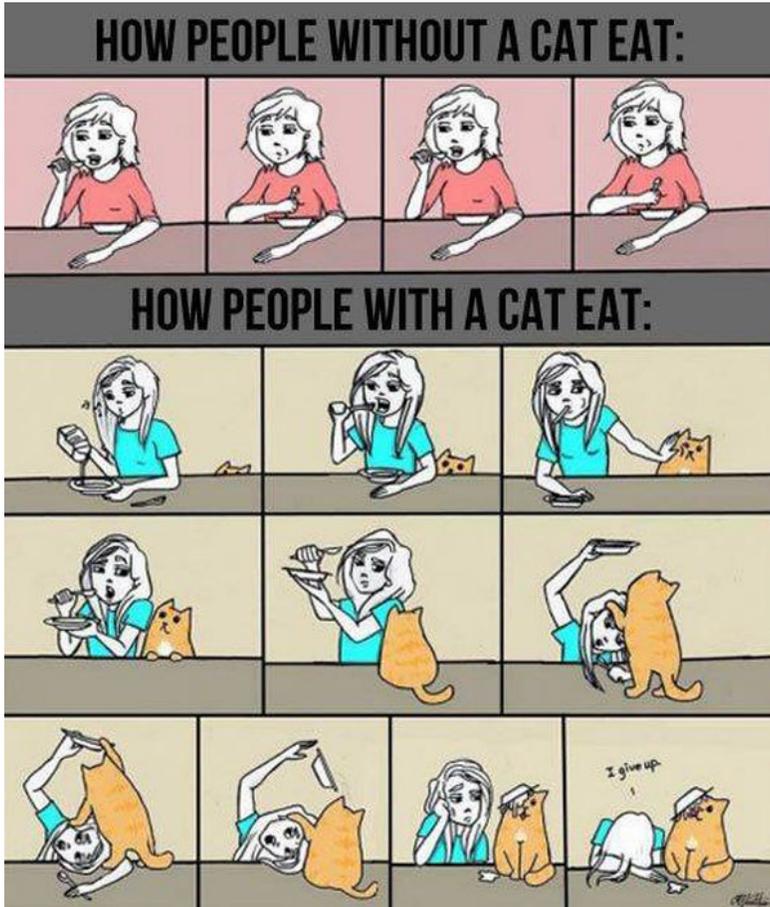
Tips for taking pet photos

As a cat owner, it is not a hard task to find a fantastic photo opportunity. Capturing the moment on camera is often a little more difficult. Here are some hints and tips on taking great photographs of your fur baby!

- Catch your cat's character – photograph them in their favourite spot or enjoying a much-loved pastime such as curled up on someone's lap or playing with their most-loved toy
- Get on their level – getting on the floor and at the same level as your cat is a great way to capture some dramatic, yet natural shots
- Get the light right – place a dark coloured pet against a lighter background and a lighter coloured pet against a darker background
- The eyes are the most expressive part of an animal's face, so if you want to create really engaging portraits, focus on your cat's eyes and facial expressions
- Include people – one of the best things you can do to add context to a shot is to include the special people in the life of your cat in the photo
- Always have your phone or camera ready – you never know when the next great photo opportunity will be!



Kitty cartoons...



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